

March 12, 2008

FILED/ACCEPTED

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington DC 20554

MAR 21 2008

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Re: *In the Matter of Broadcast Localism* (MB Docket No. 04-233)
Report on Broadcast Localism and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to applaud the efforts of WJRT, mid-Michigan's local ABC affiliate, in meeting its commitment to localism in broadcasting. As a temporary holder of public airwaves, WJRT is obligated to meet the local needs and the public interest. My understanding is that the recent Notice of Public Inquiry issued by the FCC is intended to "ensure that broadcasters are appropriately addressing the needs of their local communities." In the case of our ABC affiliate, great efforts are taken to provide quality local news and informative local political and civic programming.

For example, Mid-Michigan has been disproportionately and adversely affected by the subprime mortgage crisis and, as a result, has one of the highest foreclosure rates in the nation. WJRT has consistently covered the issue, directing viewers to local and federal resources to aid homeowners. WJRT gave advance notice and aired coverage of forums on how to avoid foreclosure held on February 13th in Saginaw, Michigan and on February 19th at Flint's Mott Community College.

WJRT has also given much attention to candidates for local and state elected office in the past several years. The City of Flint recently held a competitive mayoral race for which the station's coverage was extensive. The October 29, 2007 mayoral debate was televised live on WJRT and both major candidates received ample air time.

WJRT has been an invaluable resource in informing the viewing audience of matters that directly affect mid-Michigan. My first-hand experience with such a long-standing partnership leaves me thoroughly convinced that our community is well-served by WJRT.

Sincerely,

Dale E. Kildee, M.C.

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I submit the following comments in response to the Localism Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (the "NPRM"), released Jan. 24, 2008, in MB Docket No. 04-233.

Any new FCC rules, policies or procedures must not violate First Amendment rights. A number of proposals discussed in the NPRM, if enacted, would do so – and must not be adopted.

(1) The FCC must not force radio stations, especially religious broadcasters, to take advice from people who do not share their values. The NPRM's proposed advisory board proposals would impose such unconstitutional mandates. Religious broadcasters who resist advice from those who don't share their values could face increased harassment, complaints and even loss of license for choosing to follow their own consciences, rather than allowing incompatible viewpoints to shape their programming. The First Amendment prohibits government, including the FCC, from dictating what viewpoints a broadcaster, particularly a religious broadcaster, must present.

(2) The FCC must not turn every radio station into a public forum where anyone and everyone has rights to air time. Proposed public access requirements would do so – even if a religious broadcaster conscientiously objects to the message. The First Amendment forbids imposition of message delivery mandates on any religion.

(3) The FCC must not force revelation of specific editorial decision-making information. The choice of programming, especially religious programming, is not properly dictated by any government agency – and proposals to force reporting on such things as who produced what programs would intrude on constitutionally-protected editorial choices.

(4) Many Christian broadcasters operate on tight budgets, as do many smaller market secular stations. Keeping the electricity flowing is often a challenge. Yet, the Commission proposes to further squeeze niche and smaller market broadcasters, by substantially raising costs in two ways: (a) by requiring staff presence whenever a station is on the air and, (b) by further restricting main studio location choices. Raising costs with these proposals would force service cutbacks – and curtailed service is contrary to the public interest.

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We urge the FCC not to adopt rules, procedures or policies discussed above.

MAR 21 2008

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Irene Darnell

3-11-2008

Signature and Date

302 Apt. C J. St. N. Wilkesboro, N.C. 28659

Name and Address

Mail By April 14, 2008 to:

The Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
Attn: Chief, Media Bureau

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List ABCDE

Federal Communications Commission

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- (4) The FCC must not establish a two-tiered renewal system in which certain licensees would be automatically barred from routine renewal application processing. The proposed mandatory special renewal review of certain classes of applicants by the Commissioners themselves would amount to coercion of religious broadcasters. Those who stay true to their consciences and present only the messages they correspond to their beliefs could face long, expensive and potentially ruinous renewal proceedings.
- (5) Many Christian broadcasters operate on tight budgets, as do many smaller market secular stations. Keeping the electricity flowing is often a challenge. Yet, the Commission proposes to further squeeze niche and smaller market broadcasters, by substantially raising costs in two ways: (a) by requiring staff presence whenever a station is on the air and, (b) by further restricting main studio location choices. Raising costs with these proposals would force service cutbacks – and curtailed service is contrary to the public interest.

We urge the FCC not to adopt rules, procedures or policies discussed above.

Date 3/7/08

Signature

Casper, WY 82609
Address

Name

307-237-9875
Phone

Title (if any)

Organization (if any)

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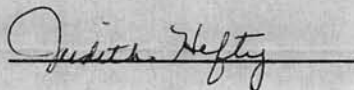
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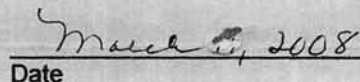
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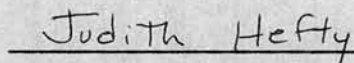
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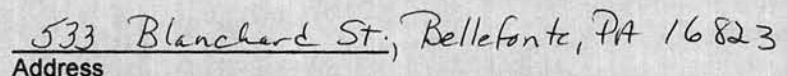
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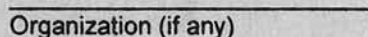
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